

CARES Commission Members Brief Biographies

Chairman: The Honorable Everett Alvarez, Jr.

Everett Alvarez, a distinguished naval officer and government executive, is best known as the first American aviator shot down over North Vietnam. He was taken prisoner of war and held in North Vietnam for eight and a half years. He holds a Juris Doctorate from George Washington University School of Law and is a member of the D.C. bar. He served as deputy director of the Peace Corps from 1981-82, and deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration from 1982-86. He then served as the vice president for government services with the Hospital Corporation of America, until he set up his own consulting company, Conwal Inc. of McLean, VA.

Vice Chairman: The Honorable Raymond John Vogel

Mr. Vogel is President of R. J. Vogel and Associates, a consulting company in Venice, Florida since 2000. Prior to 2000, he worked in the Department of Veterans Affairs for 33 years in a variety of capacities. He held the position of director at the medical centers in Bay Pines, Florida and Charleston, South Carolina; served as the Under Secretary for Veterans Benefits (VBA); and served as the director of VBA's Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and the VBA Regional Office, Portland, Oregon.

An Army veteran, Mr. Vogel holds a Master of Science degree in government administration from George Washington University, Washington, DC.

Charles Battaglia

Mr. Battaglia has more than 35 years of service in the executive and legislative branches of the federal government. From 1997 to 2000, he served as the staff director of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs where he directed authorization, oversight, and legislative activities for veterans' health care and benefits. From the mid-1980s to 1997, Mr. Battaglia served as a senior staff member and staff director of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence where he directed congressional oversight of all intelligence agencies. Battaglia also had an extensive career as a naval officer.

Joseph E. Binard, MD, FRCSC

Dr. Joseph Binard is a senior staff research consultant in Bioengineering and a

clinical instructor of urology at the University of Wisconsin and was an associate clinical professor of Urology at the University of South Florida at Tampa until 2000. He also serves as a consulting urologist for the Oneida Tribe Clinic, Oneida, Wisconsin. A retired Navy captain, Dr. Binard served as commanding officer in Iceland and Norfolk, Virginia. Prior to retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1996, he served as national director of the Spinal Cord Injury Program, Washington, D.C. and chief of Spinal Cord Injury Service at the VA medical centers in Hampton, Virginia and Tampa, Florida.

Raymond Boland

Mr. Boland, a Vietnam War veteran, served in the US Army for 30 years. He has served as the secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs since 1992. As secretary, he oversees support to Wisconsin's one-half million veterans through a wide-range of programs including loans, grants, health care, and cemetery operations. He is also recognized as a national advocate for ending homelessness among veterans.

Mr. Boland is the current president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs. This association provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among state veterans organizations, facilitates reciprocal state services, and seeks to secure uniformity, equality, and efficiency in providing services to veterans in all U.S. states and territories.

Chad Colley

Mr. Colley has served in numerous positions with veterans associations, including the National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans. During Vietnam, Colley was serving as commanding officer of an infantry company in the famed 101st Airborne Division, when he stepped on a mine. He lost both legs and an arm. Three days after he'd undergone surgery, he wrote a letter to his wife, "Even though I'm banged up pretty good, I'm still me. I have a big challenge to undertake now." Some years later, Colley was selected by President Reagan as Handicapped American of the Year, and for nearly three decades has been a public speaker for corporate, governmental and civic entities across the country, often on issues concerning disabled Americans. Additionally, he is an avid skier, former U.S. Disabled Ski Team member and a double Gold Medallist from the Albertville, France Paralympics. Following a 28 year career as a real estate broker, he located to his current home in New Smyrna Beach, Florida where he lives with his wife of 35 years Betty Ann Colley.

Vernice Ferguson, RN, M.A., F.A.A.N., F.R.C.N.

Ms. Ferguson was a senior fellow in the School of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, holding the Fagin Family Chair in Cultural Diversity from 1993-1996. Prior to this position, she served for 12 years as the assistant chief medical director for nursing programs in the VA. In this assignment she was responsible for more than 60,000 nursing personnel. She also served as the chief nurse at two VA medical centers and as chief of the nursing department at the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health.

Ms. Ferguson is the recipient of eight honorary doctorates and two fellowships, one in physics, and one in alcohol studies. She was the first chairperson of the Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA) Foundation, which supports scholarships and research grants for VA nurses.

John Kendall, MD

Dr. John Kendall is presently the dean emeritus and professor of medicine emeritus, Oregon Health Sciences University. He is a VA Physician and Academic Affiliations Officer for VISN 20, of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which includes Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska. As Dean of Medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University from 1983 to 1992, he served as a staff physician in the endocrinology clinic at the VA Medical Center, Portland.

Dr. Kendall has served as a consultant in multiple local and national capacities. These include President of the Multnomah (Portland) County Medical Society, a delegate from Oregon to the American Medical Association and chair of the Medical Schools Section of the AMA. He was elected to a fellowship in the Royal Society of Medicine and serves as a member of their Endocrinology and Diabetes Section Council.

Richard McCormick, PhD

Dr. McCormick is currently in private practice in Hudson, Ohio. He also consults on quality assurance issues in mental health. Dr. McCormick served the Department of Veterans Affairs from 1972 to 2002 in a variety of positions related to the mental health field, including director of the Mental Health Care Line for the VA Health Care System of Ohio and Co-Chair of the Under Secretary for Health's committee on the Care of Veterans with Serious Mental Illness. He continues to participate in Health Services Research programs on providing care for patients with mental disorders and substance abuse.

Layton McCurdy, M.D.

A graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Dr. McCurdy is Dean Emeritus and Professor of Psychiatry MUSC. He has made many

contributions to the scientific literature in the areas of medical education, the social responsibility of physicians, addictions and psychiatry. Recently, he served as a member of a National Academy of Sciences ad hoc committee, which prepared a report on protecting the health of deployed U.S. Forces. During his career, Dr McCurdy has served as President of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology from 1990-1991, as President of the American College of Psychiatrists from 1993 to 1994, as President of the Association of Chairmen of Departments of Psychiatry for 1979-1980. He has participated in national advisory positions for the Department of Veterans Affairs and for the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), where he was a Presidential appointee to the NIMH Advisory Council from 1978 to 1982.

Richard Pell, Jr.

Richard Pell, Jr. has served as Senior Vice President-Administration of Genesis Health Ventures, Inc. since April 1998. Mr. Pell oversees the following areas: Human Resources, Law, Government Relations, Public Relations, Marketing, Property Management, and Clinical Practice and Outcomes. Prior to joining Genesis, Mr. Pell was the Director of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia and Chief of Staff for the Department of Veterans Affairs for nine years before that. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1970 and a Masters Degree in Health Care Administration from the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, City University of New York in 1975.

Robert A. "Bob" Ray

Mr. Ray has more than 37 years of diversified experience in business and with veterans' issues. As the state commander of the American Legion from 1991-92, Ray was instrumental in reorganizing department headquarters to reduce expenses and improve efficiency. He has held numerous positions in Ohio that have benefited veterans and is also a life member of AMVETS and the Korean War Veterans Association.

A Navy veteran, Mr. Ray's business experience included positions with Ford Motor Company, from which he retired as a senior manufacturing engineer in 1996.

Sister Patricia Vandenberg, CSC

Sister Vandenberg was elected in May 2003 to serve as the Eastern US Area Coordinator of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Prior to that role she served as the Director of the Health Care MBA program at Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio. She served as the president and chief executive officer for Holy Cross Health

System, South Bend, Indiana from 1989 to 2000. In that role Sister Vandenberg headed one of the largest and oldest Catholic health systems with more than 30,000 employees and consisting of hospitals, long term care and residential facilities, ambulatory, diagnostic and surgery centers, and auxiliary enterprises, including a college of nursing, an insurance and benefits administration company and a physician practice management company.

Sister Vandenberg holds a master of health administration from Duke University, pursued graduate theological studies at the University of Notre Dame and has a bachelor of science in nursing from Hunter College of the City University of New York. She belongs to numerous professional organizations and has published and spoken on health care issues around the world.

The Honorable Jo Ann K. Webb, RN, MHA

Ms. Webb is currently the Director of Federal Relations and Policy for the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association. Ms. Webb has held two presidential appointments as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning and as the Director of the National Cemetery System for the Department of Veterans Affairs. She is the former Legislative Director for Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-AR) and the former Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Health, for the House Veterans Affairs Committee. She also served as a consultant and Director of Health Policy for the Paralyzed Veterans of America. Ms. Webb served as an Army Nurse and holds a BS degree from Penn State University and a Masters in Health Administration from George Washington University.

Ms. Webb was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Exceptional Service Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. She is an Alumni Fellow of Penn State University. Ms. Webb is a member of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American College of Health Care Executives and the Society of Sponsors of the United States Navy. She is the sponsor of the USS Abraham Lincoln, an aircraft carrier home ported in San Francisco, CA.

Michael K. Wyrick, Major General, USAF, Ret.

General Wyrick has 34 years of leadership and management experience in complex health care operations. He served as the deputy surgeon general of the Air Force Medical Service from 1997 until his retirement in 1999. He currently is executive director of a nonprofit association of 13 hospitals in northern Virginia the mission of which is to improve emergency preparedness and counter-terrorism measures in northern Virginia.

In addition, General Wyrick has been President, National Capital Region Emergency Response, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. coordinating

emergency preparedness efforts in the National Capital Region. Prior to that, he was Vice President for Emergency Preparedness, District of Columbia Hospital Association. He has been the administrator of community and regional hospitals and a major medical center in the Air Force. As Air Force deputy surgeon general, he was instrumental in downsizing and reengineering a 55,000-person healthcare organization providing care to 2.4 million beneficiaries. General Wyrick is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and an Honorary Diplomat in the American Academy of Medical Administrators.

Al Zamberlan F.A.C.H.E.

Mr. Zamberlan has an undergraduate degree from Franciscan University of Steubenville and a master degree in Health Care Administration from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1952 to 1958. Zamberlan has over 37 year of experience in health care management, consulting, strategic planning and new business development. From 1994 to 1996, he served as vice president of strategic planning for Lockheed Martin Information Management Service, where he worked with VA on major automation efforts.

Zamberlan served in VA from 1962 to 1994 in a variety of positions including the Veterans Health Administration regional director for both the Central Region and the Great Lakes Region. As regional director, he oversaw the operation of numerous medical centers and clinics in each multi-state region. He has also served as director at three VA medical centers. He is a life member of the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE).